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## INFLUENZA IN CHILDREN

Two new studies on the impact of flu on children were [presented](#) at an Infectious Disease conference last week. In the first study researchers found that over an 8-year period, 829 children died of the flu in the U.S. and for most the period between the start of symptoms and death was less than a week. Furthermore, previously healthy children without high-risk medical conditions died significantly more quickly - often within 4 days. The second study found that vaccinating children in schools led to less influenza and fewer lost school days. Unvaccinated children attending any school were 3.1 times more likely to catch the flu than vaccinated children.

### Related News Articles:

- [Influenza Vaccinations Remain Vital, Especially for Children](#)
- [Teen's death shows how flu can kill in a flash](#)
- [Flu can be deadly, even in healthy kids](#)

## VACCINE SAFETY

Due to a few inquiries over the last few weeks we want to reiterate that flu vaccines are FDA-approved products, while compounded products such as the contaminated steroids do not have FDA approval. Flu vaccines have had an excellent safety record with hundreds of millions of Americans getting them safely for many years. CDC and FDA work closely to monitor the safety of flu vaccines each influenza season. For additional flu vaccine safety, [here is a matte article](#) CDC published on vaccine safety.

Related News Article: [Health Officials: Flu Shot and Meningitis Outbreak Not Connected](#)

## VACCINE EFFICACY

Australian researchers who conducted case-control studies over five influenza seasons found that seasonal flu vaccines were 62% effective in protecting working-age adults, according to a report in [Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses](#).

Arthur Caplan, a well-known Medical Ethicist, Ruurd Torensma and Alberto Garcia-Basteriro [published responses](#) to the report last week on vaccine efficacy by the Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP). All caution that "misinterpretation of the study ought not to fuel inappropriate indifference to influenza vaccination."

## DO YOU ADMINISTER FLU VACCINES?

### DO YOU ENTER DOSES ADMINISTERED INTO MCIR?

As a reminder, new Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) [Rules went into effect](#) on August 7, 2012. Providers are required to report ALL immunizations, including flu, administered to every child born after December 31, 1993 and less than 20 years of age within 72 hours of administration. Previous to this rule, entry of flu doses was optional but highly encouraged. In addition to entering doses administered to children, it is important to enter adult doses. [MCIR](#) is a great tool for measuring progress, determining pockets of need and allowing providers to see up-to-date patient immunization history. However, all of these applications are impacted by the quality and amount of data that are entered. Please ensure you are entering your doses for children and adults!

## NEWS ARTICLES ON VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

- [Sanofi Pasteur Presents Phase III Data for Investigational Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine](#)
- [Flu Vaccine Effective Against 4 Strains, Study Finds](#)

## ADDITIONAL INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- Michigan: [Flu season hits Michigan](#)
- [British Columbia to require health-care workers to get flu shot or wear masks](#)
- [Should You Go to the Drugstore for Your Flu Shots?](#)
- [Time to get a flu shot](#)
- [Italy Bans Novartis Flu Vaccines Pending Tests For Side Effects](#)
- [CVS/pharmacy survey: Half of consumers say they won't get a flu shot](#)

## PANDEMIC INFLUENZA

[Novavax Reports Positive Top-Line Results from Two Phase 1 Trials of Pandemic Influenza Vaccine](#)

## AVIAN INFLUENZA

[HHS seeks comments on risks of H5N1 research](#)

## FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

CDC: [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu)

HHS: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Check out the [MDCH Flu Gallery](#) for posters you can use this flu season.

**I got my flu vaccine. Have you got yours?**

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